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Students' award for 'second family'

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School plays host to Olympic legend

Dame Kelly Holmes with Ormskirk School deputy head Boy Callum Swift and head girl Sasha Rowe

STAFF and pupils were thrilled to meet an Olympic legend when Ormskirk School played host to a VIP visitor at their annual Challenge Day.

Dual gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes was special guest of honour at the event themed on the school's values of opportunity, resilience and respect.

Dame Kelly, who won both the 800 and 1,500 metres events at the Athens Olympics in 2004, gave an inspirational speech at the end–of–term gathering recounting her journey to glory and describing the many challenges she had to overcome along the way.

The athletics icon also took time out to offer words of encouragement to pupils taking part in the day's varied activities including a team obstacle course, charity walk for Asthma UK and a collaborative display celebrating the school's ethos.

Assistant headteacher, Alex Wood, said: "We were very proud to have Dame Kelly involved in this year's Challenge Day. She was incredibly generous with her time and meeting her is something that our pupils and staff will never forget."

CYCLING FAN DAVE'S TOUR DE FORCE!

Message from dual champ Froome spurred him on to complete gruelling challenge

By **Danielle Thompson**

CYCLING fanatic Dave Sims has completed the gruelling 2,000–mile Tour De France course on an adapted children's Raleigh Chopper bike – after receiving a message of encouragement from two–times Tour winner Chris Froome en route!

The 36–year–old from Halsall finished his own 3,500km–challenge on Saturday (July 25) – 24 hours ahead of Froome and his fellow professionals in the main event – and raised more than £5,000 for the Help for Heroes charity.

Starting out from Utrecht in the Netherlands on July 2, determined Dave completed the race despite battling a painful heel injury.

After completing stage 18 last Wednesday (July 22) he was thrilled to receive a text message and video from long–time race leader, Chris Froome, who went on to become the first Briton to win the world's most famous cycling race twice.

Dave also met former British cycling performance director and Team Sky general manager Sir David Brailsford who had a go on one of his two adapted Choppers.

Chris Froome told Dave: "Just wanted to wish you luck in reaching Paris! Team Chop has done a fantastic job up until now. I'm pretty impressed you've made it this far – but you've still got to get up afterwards! Hope to see you in Paris, cheers mate!"

A member of the Harry Middleton Cycling Club in Ormskirk, Dave trained on the Chopper for months.

Adaptations he made to the bike included raising the seat post, extending the pedal arms, improving the brakes and reinforcing the wheels, although he kept the original tyres.

Last year he rode a Chopper in the 142–km Etape du Tour race and finished among the leaders in under eight hours. He has also previously done the full Tour de France route on road and mountain bikes.

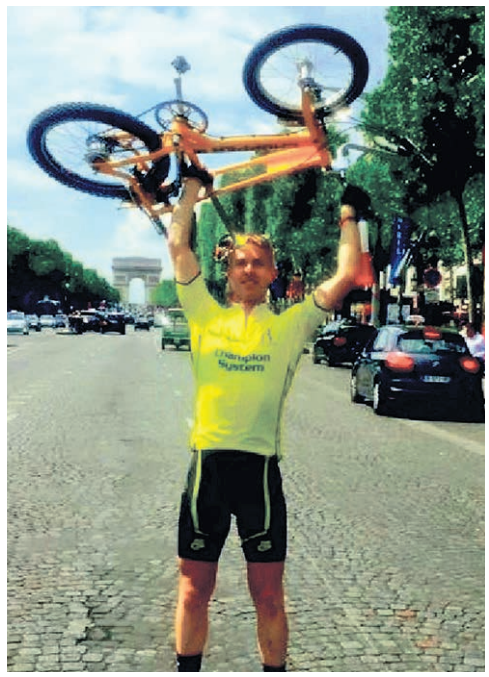
He was inspired to tackle the challenge in aid of Help for Heroes following a chance meeting with an ex–servicewoman and member of the British Paralympic team who had just hand–cycled up one of the biggest mountains in Majorca.

He said: "It was the best and the worst thing that I have ever done! I was cycling up to 135 miles a day in testing conditions – up and down hills, in busy traffic and, for one memorable day, over cobbles, which was so hard with the Chopper's little wheels!

"I had an awful Achilles tendon injury but Team Sky rang me up after hearing about my challenge and offered to tape it up for me and help me out with physio, which got me back on my feet again.

"I just kept telling myself to take one day at a time. It was so hot I was dehydrated for days, despite drinking up to 10 litres a day.

• *Continued inside*



Dave Sims holds his bike aloft in triumph after completing his Tour de France challenge

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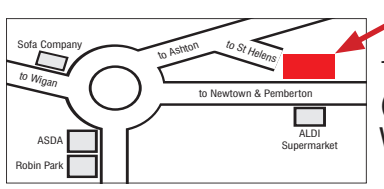

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CCTV helping to keep a lid on crime in borough say council

COUNCIL chiefs claim a new report shows the effectiveness of the authority's CCTV system in keeping crime low in West Lancashire.

Over the last five years the council has invested heavily in its public open space system and expanded the scheme to install cameras in areas which previously had no coverage. It currently operates 95 public open space cameras which are monitored 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

The authority has just published its second annual CCTV report and key achievements highlighted in it include:

- CCTV staff assisted in 363 arrests by police officers in West Lancashire.
- Evidential quality footage was provided to Lancashire Police on 223 occasions.
- CCTV staff were involved in 499 missing/vulnerable person 'incidents'.
- They were also involved in monitoring 345 cash deliveries/collections to ensure they were carried out without incident.
- Operators identified 1,096 incidents themselves through general monitoring.

The council say public open space CCTV cameras act as a deterrent but can also assist in the identification of people or vehicles involved in criminal activity. Many of the newer cameras are located near to roads in or out of West Lancs and are useful in helping to tackle 'travelling criminals.'

Council bosses believe the figures in the report show the value of the system and 10 more cameras are to be installed over the next year to provide wider coverage with the aim of making West Lancashire even safer.

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for community safety, said:

CCTV cameras are helping to keep crime low in West Lancs according to council

"This report underlines the value of the system and its operators. The experience of the operators and their close working relationship with the police helps to ensure we achieve great results from our system.

"CCTV can deter criminals and assist with making the public feel safe. West Lancashire is a safe place to live and work and we want to ensure this continues."

And West Lancashire Police Inspector June Chessell commented: "Lancashire Constabulary fully support the use of CCTV and it can assist us in providing key evidence. At a local level I am extremely impressed with the WLBC scheme which continues to go from strength to strength.

"The operators also perform a key task in relation to preventing crimes and perform a vital link between the streets of West Lancashire and ourselves."

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Dave's tour de force for worthy cause

• continued from Page 1

"To meet Sir David Brailsford and to get the text and video from Chris Froome were amazing and really lifted my spirits.

"Doing the challenge on my own was a bit lonely, I think it would be more fun to do in a peloton, but I am so pleased that I was able to do it.

"I've fulfilled a dream and raised money for a wonderful charity at the same time while being spurred on by an international superstar – not many people can say that!"

Bid to store soil and compost at former colliery site

PROPOSALS for a change of use of the former Bickerstaffe Jubilee Colliery site have been submitted to West Lancs Council.

Applicant R. Draper Ltd submitted a planning application to the authority bidding to change the use of the land at the Rainford Road site to storage and blending of soils, sand/minerals and green and organic compost, as well as the erection of new building and car park with 10 spaces and vehicular access.

The council's assistant director of planning is expected to make a decision on the application by Tuesday, August 4.

Fracking motion prompts Tory councillors walk–out

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

CONSERVATIVE councillors staged a walk–out at the full meeting of West Lancs Council last Wednesday (July 22) when a Labour councilor put forward a motion about fracking.

Scott ward Councillor John Hodson placed a motion relating to the controversial procedure on the agenda on behalf of the Labour group for councillors to consider at the meeting.

The motion read: 'That this council congratulates and fully supports Lancashire County Council's development control committee's recent decisions to refuse the applications to frack in Lancashire thereby sending out to the wider country the message that local democracy is still alive and well in Lancashire and that the people of our county will not be cowed by central government interference or corporate pressure.'

However, all of the Conservative councillors who were at the meeting chose to leave when the fracking motion was called and it was carried by the remaining councillors following a recorded vote.

Councillor David Westley

The leader of the Conservative group on the council, Councillor David Westley, said that none of the party's councillors were asked to leave but chose to as the motion was "overtly political and pointless."

He said: "If we had voted we would have been stating that we were for or against fracking and this would have suggested that we had a pre–determined outlook when taking part in a decision in a county or borough council capacity and it could have had a detrimental effect on our ability to vote on future planning decisions.

"Fracking is too important, we did not want to be brought into a pointless, entirely political motion aimed at making us make a statement about 'central government interference' or 'local democracy.'

"The motion doesn't mean anything and wouldn't achieve anything – politics don't come into planning."

Former Conservative Derby ward Councillor Adrian Owens, who now represents the Our West Lancashire group, said that while some of the Tory councillors returned to the meeting others didn't and missed the following items on the agenda.

He said: "Residents in many wards were left unrepresented in an important and controversial debate and the next motion on further education cuts. The Conservatives could have moved an amendment to the motion but to simply not engage in debate was inexcusable."

Wimpey submit homes plan for farm site

PLANS have been submitted for a new housing development of more than 300 homes in Ormskirk.

Applicant Taylor Wimpey UK Limited submitted a planning application for the demolition of existing agricultural buildings at Grove Farm on High Lane to make way for a phased residential development of 316 homes, public open space, the relocation of the existing water feature on site and access for vehicles from the A59 (High Lane).

The borough council's planning committee are expected to make a decision on the application by Tuesday, August 4.

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Knights ride in with charity specs donation

Ormskirk Knights of St Columba members Tony Gill, Mark Condon, Jim Holland, Matthew Wright and Don McGair with their glasses collection box

MEMBERS of the local branch of an organisation for Catholic men have been doing their bit to help adults and children in Africa with sight problems.

The Ormskirk branch (Council 64) of the Knights of Saint Columba, which promotes the social doctrine of the Catholic Church, has collected dozens of pairs of glasses for the Specsavers' Giving Sight to Africa appeal.

Old or unwanted spectacles collected by the branch have been passed to the opticians who will recycle them through Vision Aid Overseas, a charity which specialises in providing eye care for those in poverty–stricken countries around the world.

Proceeds from recycling the glasses is used to fund the charity work of Vision Aid Overseas. Since its inception in 1987, the UK–based charity has helped more than one million people in the developing world.

The collection was the idea of long–standing knight and St Anne's parishioner, Jim Holland, who said: "If you wear glasses, like me, you are bound to have old pairs of glasses around the house, so why not put them to good use?"

Anyone wishing to donate glasses can drop them off at Specsavers in Church Street, Ormskirk.

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Residents voice fears over bio–fuel plant

By **Danielle Thompson**

WORRIED residents have raised traffic and pollution concerns over a proposed 'bio–liquid' renewable facility that would burn cooking oil and animal fats to create electricity and heat.

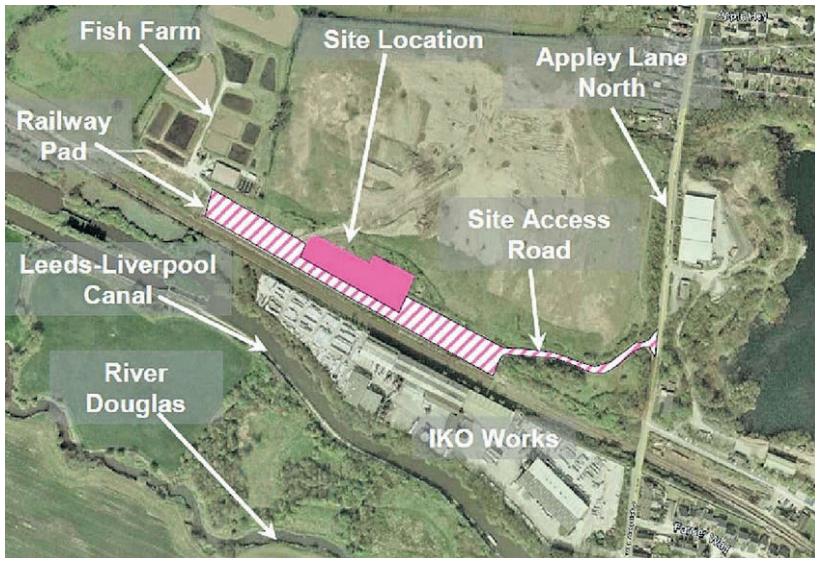
Energy company Appley Bridge Biomass to Energy Ltd. wants to develop a 5–megawatt power generation facility at the West Quarry railway pad at Appley Bridge, the former municipal waste landfill site next to the Manchester–Southport railway line.

Under the proposals diesel engines would be used to combust bio–liquids cooking oil or tallow (a rendered form of beef or mutton fat) to generate electricity which would go into the national grid. It would also create heat to be used in an as–yet undecided energy scheme for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

However local residents have raised concerns that the plant would result in a strong, unpleasant smell, a large increase in lorries passing down Appley Lane North, and an increase in pollution caused by the factory's emissions and the lorries.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has echoed the residents' concerns.

She said: "I am aware that Appley Bridge residents are deeply concerned by the effect this bio–fuel factory will have on their area. I have written to both Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Borough Council to raise their concerns, especially with regard to emissions, pollution and the number of lorries in and out of the site.



The map submitted to Lancashire County Council shows where the development would be sited

"Whilst this development has planning permission, the residents and I are seeking reassurances there will be robust monitoring of the emissions from this site and its activities and action taken if necessary."

The county council granted a planning application for the installation and operation of the power generation facility and an amendment or the use of tallow and cooking oil as bio–liquids.

The site was previously used as a railway depot for waste arriving at the adjacent landfill site.

After landfilling operations ended, the site was used to generate electricity using gas engines fuelled by landfill gas, but it is now unused except for an environmental monitoring station measuring emissions from the previous operations.

It's party time as trio celebrate 65 years' service

From left: Mel Innes, home manager Sammi Molyneux, Karen Webster, director of Stocks Hall Nursing and Care Group, Sue Lace and Jean McCann

NURSING home staff held a party to celebrate three colleagues clocking up a combined 65 years of service.

Housekeeper Karen Webster, hairdresser Jean McCann and senior carer Mel Innes have chalked up the longstanding service between them at the Stocks Hall home in Liverpool Road South, Burscough.

Karen and Jean have worked at the home for 25 of the 28 years it has been open, while Mel is a comparative 'newcomer' with 15 years' service.

Director, Sue Lace, said:

"Stocks Hall Nursing and Care Group are delighted to be able to celebrate the dedication and hard work of our long–serving staff who are the bedrock of everything we do. I would like to thank Karen, Jean and Mel for all their efforts over the years and congratulate them on this achievement."

Karen Webster said: "From the day I walked through the door I knew this was the place I wanted to work. Stocks Hall has grown so much but the friendly, family atmosphere has remained the same."

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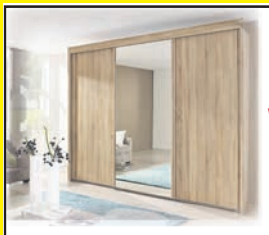

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Students' surprise award for 'second family' pair

TWO members of support staff at Edge Hill, who between them have clocked up combined service of more than 50 years, have been given surprise awards.

Janet Forrest and Ann Hill have worked as housekeepers at the university for more than 27 years, often acting as a 'second family' to students living away from home.

And the pair, from Ormskirk, were presented with Student–Led Staff Awards at a graduation ceremony last week, voted for by students at the university.

Ann said: "We were surprised and proud to have been given this award. We both love Edge Hill, that's why we've stayed here so long."

And Janet added: "The students keep us young, they often say we are like a second family to them. We've even been invited to weddings and christenings of former students."

Edge Hill's Student–Led Staff Awards are held each year to honour inspirational teaching staff, personal tutors and support staff who 'go above and beyond.'

Students who nominated Janet and Ann said that they had made the atmosphere in their halls caring and homely and built a real friendship with each flatmate.

Janet and Ann with their awards

Summer Music Festival line–up

DETAILS of West Lancs Council's Summer Music Festival set to run throughout next month in Coronation Park, Ormskirk, have been announced.

Rock and pop bands will be performing at the bandstand on Saturday afternoons, while local brass bands will take centre stage on Sundays.

All concerts will start at 2pm and end around 4pm.

The line–ups are as follows:

- Saturday, August 1 –Shamones
- Sunday, Aug 2 – Flixton Brass Band
- Sat, Aug 8 – Wayne Carrick's Band
- Sun, Aug 9 – Farnworth & Walkden Brass Band
- Sat, Aug 15 – Red Eye Jedi
- Sun, Auh 16 – Coppull & Standish Brass Band
- Sat, Aug 22 –George's Big Shed
- Sun, Aug 23 – Trinity Brass Band
- Sat, Aug 29 – Red Men Don't Walk
- Sun, Aug 30 – Skelmersdale Brass Band.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "There aren't many better ways to spend a summer afternoon than listening to music in lovely surroundings like Coronation Park."

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Swimmer's world record bid on target

...but sponsors still needed for final push

A TALENTED West Lancs–based swimmer planning a marathon world–record bid with five pals next month in aid of charity is celebrating after they reached their first funding target.

Katie Birchall from Town Green is one of a six–strong team aiming to complete a gruelling three–way swim of the English Channel between Dover and Cap Griz Nez near Calais in less than 30 hours 31 minutes.

And they are hoping to raise more than £5,000 for the British Heart Foundation and international children's charity, UNICEF.

The team are confident they can break the current world record time as four of the six, including Katie, were in the squad which holds the world record for the fastest two–way crossing in 18 hours 13 minutes in July 2013.

Katie and teammates Jane McCormick, Dee Llewellyn, Lucy Lloyd–Roach, Emma Ross and Natalie Massey, will each do a minimum of 12 miles of swimming in cold water without wetsuits and faced by hazards such as stinging jellyfish, swimming in the dark, floating debris and rough seas.

It will cost £7,000 for a qualified Channel pilot, boat, crew, fuel, safety equipment and official observer to accompany the team and they needed to raise £2,500 of this by Friday (July 31) to ensure the bid went ahead.

They reached £2,850 on fundraising website crowdfunder.co.uk ahead of the deadline – meaning the challenge is now on – and also raised almost £2,500 with sponsored events and a fun day. However, they still need to find another £2,000 to meet their charity pledges.

Katie said: "The fundraising to date has gone well but we've got to raise £7,000 altogether and have still got £2,000 to go.

"We are in talks with a few companies at the moment to see if they'd like to pay for a banner on our support boat with their company logo on, or to sponsor our kit.

"We are still looking for sponsors, if any local businesses are interested in sponsoring us please contact me directly at katiebirchall@yahoo.co.uk."

Katie Birchall and her five teammates who are set to take on a world record attempt

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Chance to take a walk on the wild side

Report by **Henry James**

THERE'S a chance to enjoy the borough's towns and countryside, as well as learning about the local widlife, during the West Lancashire Walking Festival.

West Lancs Council rangers have teamed up with walk leaders from different organisations to provide routes that cover as much of the borough as possible.

All the walks are free and there is something to suit all abilities – from short strolls to long–distance rambles

First event is the Butterfly Walk on Saturday, August 1, starting from the Ranger Station at Beacon Country Park at midday. This is a relaxed, informative walk around the park of between two and four miles on which people can look at the different butterflies living there.

Walkers can then take in some of West Lancashire's finest views on an eight–mile ramble around Appley Bridge, Fairy Glen in Parbold and Hunters Hill in Hilldale, on Sunday, August 2.

To take part, meet at the layby on the A5209 (Parbold Hill) close to the Fairy Glen entrance at 10am.

The festival also includes a six–mile circular walk around Ormskirk on Wednesday, August 5, starting from Coronation Park bandstand at 1pm, and a four–mile jaunt around Martin Mere reedbed, starting from the Burscough reserve's visitors' centre at 10am on Friday, August 7.

Walks are planned for every day up until Thursday, August 14, when the final event is an informative walk of between two and four miles looking at different bat and moth species living in Coronation Park, Ormskirk. The walk starts from the bowling pavilion at 8pm.

Walkers are advised to wear sturdy footwear and clothing to suit the weather and conditions for all walks. Dogs are not allowed on the Martin Mere walks, but are welcome on the other walks.

Ulfrun and apprentice corn grinders from Wirhalh Skip Felag Viking re–enactment society who set up a weekend camp at the West Lancs Green Fayre. Code 1082876

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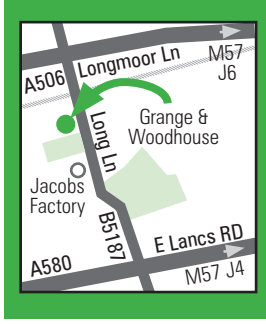

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Green Fayre is a red–hot success!

WEST Lancs Council bosses have hailed this year's Green Fayre "a fantastic success."

An estimated 5,000–plus visitors went along to Beacon Country Park on Saturday (July 25) for the annual event celebrating countryside living.

And although numbers were down on Sunday, due to the weather, many still braved the rain to attend and weren't disappointed.

The free show, organised by the council's parks and countryside service, featured a variety of exhibitors and traders demonstrating a wide range of traditional crafts and techniques.

Displays included willow weaving, basket making, blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, pole–lathe turning and many more.

Three–time BBC Radio 2 Folk Award nominee Hannah James headlined the folk marquee and she was supported by a number of talented local musicians performing solo slots before all coming together to play some lively ceilidh tunes to the delight of the crowds.

There was also a range of animal displays and members of the public were able to interact with all sorts from predatory birds and owls, to pigs, sheep and donkeys, with the petting zoo proving particularly popular.

Visitors could also experience the sights, smells and sounds of Viking life in the show's authentic tented village and talk to the 'villagers' while fearsome Viking warriors played out exciting battle scenes in the arena.

Fun activities for younger people included a climbing wall, bouncy castles, trampolines and a small traditional funfair.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "The Green Fayre was a great day out for all the family and I would like to thank the West Lancashire Borough Council Rangers for all their hard work organising the event. I am sure everyone who came along enjoyed the fantastic range of attractions, even though the weather was bad on Sunday."

• **PICTURED RIGHT: Wheelwright Phill Gregson (right) and apprentice Joe Fredericks, one of only two in the country, ready to demonstrate their skills wheel making and hooping. Code 1082877**

• **BELOW: Up Holland blacksmith Jake Schorah at last weekend's Green Fayre. Code 1082878**

Artist's 'big' mission to mark charity milestone

A FORMER soldier who learned to paint with his 'wrong' hand – despite being left registered blind and disabled following a horrific accident – is aiming to create a big work of art to raise awareness of the charity he credits with helping him rebuild his life.

Matthew Rhodes was serving with the army in Germany when he suffered life–changing injuries in a motorcycle accident just three days before his 21st birthday.

The father–of–four, who also served with NATO forces in Bosnia, was found badly injured at the side of a road in December 1995. It is believed he may have been in collision with a car but there were no witnesses and his injuries left him with no recollection of what had happened.

After 10 weeks in a coma under observation, he was flown back to the UK for further treatment.

As a result of the accident he lost more than six stones in weight and was left paralysed down his right side. Blood clots in his brain also left him with severely restricted sight and poor short–term memory.

But, thanks to his own determination and with the help of Blind Veterans UK, he has rebuilt his life and developed a passion for art after learning to paint with his left hand.

And the 39–year–old, who now lives in Tarleton, aims to inspire others to overcome disability and show that blindness doesn't have to 'hold you back' by undertaking an 8ft by 3ft painting of inspirational members of the charity next month to celebrate the charity's 100th anniversary this year.

He plans to spend nine days, painting for up to 14 hours each day, to complete the work which will go on display at the Imperial War Museum in London on September 23.

Matthew Rhodes painting watched by an admirer

Earlier this year, Matthew painted a portrait of Steven Gerrard, which was signed by the star before being auctioned to raise money for the charity.

He said: "The accident affected how information from my eyes reaches my brain. When I look at someone I can see a tiny area, for example half of one eye, and am able to focus on that area but all around it I can see nothing. When I do a painting I start by doing an outline then focusing on each area to fill in.

"Blind Veterans UK taught me how to paint – I'd never painted before. And I'm left–handed now as I was paralysed down my right side. Although I found it frustrating in the early stages, now I really it.

"The charity is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, having been started as a result of all the troops who were blinded after being gassed in the First World War.

"To mark the milestone I am doing a painting of current members of the charity who have achieved many things, proving that being blind does not hold you back."

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Manager Paul Kane feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Amy's a real gem!

A SLIMMER from Aughton who dropped three dress sizes has been named as her weight–loss group's Diamond Member of the Year.

Amy Halliwell joined the Aughton Slimming World group in January 2014 and lost three stone in 28 weeks.

Now the 28–year–old, who has dropped from a size 16 to a size 10, has been named the group's Diamond Member 2015 by her fellow slimmers after keeping the weight off.

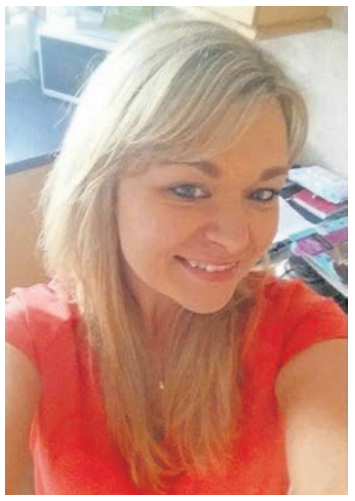
The title is awarded annually to the group's most inspirational member who has lost weight and maintained their new shape.

Her group win puts Amy in the running for the national title of Slimming World Diamond Member 2015.

The overall winner, chosen from one of Slimming World's 13,000 groups across the UK and Ireland, will take home £2,000 and will be announced next month.

As well as radically changing her diet, Amy also stepped up her exercise regime, starting with short walks and graduating to working out in the gym up to five times a week.

She said: "When I first joined the group I found it hard to believe I'd ever reach my target weight because I'd tried so many diets before and they'd never worked for me.



The new–look Amy

"It was inspiring to hear from other people who'd lost weight and my consultant has been fantastic. I finally started to believe I could achieve the weight loss I'd always dreamed of – and I did! Better yet, it wasn't just a flash in the pan, I've made a change for good."

Lancashire Book of the Year Award winner Sarah Mussi with the award judges

Pupils help judge prestgious book award

TWO youngsters from an Ormskirk school were among the judges given the task of selecting the winner of a prestigious book award this year.

The Lancashire Book of the Year was the first regional book award for children when it was founded in 1987. Now in its 29th year, it remains one of the few book awards where young people themselves are completely responsible for drawing up the shortlist and choosing the overall winner.

Judges are drawn from Year 9 pupils at 12 high schools across the county representing each of Lancashire's districts and this year Ormskirk School students, Nadia Brady and Emma Gill were among those chosen.

Winner of the award, Sarah Mussi whose entry 'Riot' was nominated from the 65–strong shortlist, visited County Hall to formally receive her award and meet the judges.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for environment, planning and cultural services, said: "Being introduced to books at a young age is important as it can build up a love of reading that can stay with you for the rest of your life. It's fantastic to see so many young people so actively involved in judging these awards and clearly getting so much pleasure from books."

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Civic salute for school's fire cadets

MAYOR of West Lancs, Councillor Nikki Hennessy pictured with the Ormskirk School fire cadets and fire and rescue service officials **Code1082567**

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy, was guest of honour at a passing–out parade for fire cadets at Ormskirk School.

Cllr. Hennessy and her consort, Paul, attended the ceremony at the school in Wigan Road where they were met by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's chief fire officer, Chris Kenny, combined fire authority chairman, Francesco De Molfetta and headteacher, John Doyle.

The 17 cadets performed a display of their skills before being presented with certificates.

The county's fire and rescue service was approached last year by Youth United and the Chief Fire Officers Association to take part in an initiative to establish a small number of fire cadet units in six schools in Lancashire for Year 9 pupils.

The programme offers a range of benefits for young people, including improved motivation, self–confidence and resilience, leadership, teamwork and social skills, as well as improving young people's engagement and contribution to the wider community.

As fire cadets youngsters acquire new skills including volunteering and first aid, as well as learning about the role and responsibilities of the fire and rescue service.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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War plane statue would add to site

FOLLOWING the opening of the new Booths store on the newly–constructed Ringtail Retail Park in Burscough (which looks fabulous by the way) could I suggest a way to commemorate the former airfield in another method, aside from the aircraft holder design of Booths itself?

The newly–constructed roundabout would look fantastic with a floral display, a sign to show the name of the retail park and perhaps the council could look at erecting a statue of a world war plane, that was either repaired at the site or stored there.

It would really add a focus to the already impressive–looking site, while remembering the unique heritage of the site as well.

Danny Abraham, Burscough

Tell us what you think!
editor@champnews.com

Farmers aren't the only ones threatened by floods

I WRITE re: the Ormskirk Champion front page article, 'Pump stations are left high and dry by cuts' (July 15).

In emphasising the effects on farmers, your article suggests that it's a problem for agricultural communities alone. Land is one of our greatest assets, its use and management affects everyone's prosperity and quality of life.

The Alt–Crossens catchment contains the highest concentration in the country of land categorised as most productive and fertile. It generates £230million for the local economy and lies mostly within West Lancashire. We can't afford to lose the income this rural economy creates.

Nearly 10,000 people are employed in agriculture in Lancashire. In West Lancashire 16% of rural businesses are directly related to agriculture.

However, the ramifications of losing these to flooding are wider because they support a plethora of related businesses. These include agricultural supply industries, packaging and distribution, food and drink manufacturing, grocery retailers (including major supermarkets), and restaurants.

The significant contribution that the rural economy makes to investment and job opportunities within the borough cannot be ignored.

Global commodities markets have shown significant price increases whilst the country's self–sufficiency in food production is gradually eroded. The ability to feed ourselves is a basic human need and consumer demand for local produce is increasing. The regional and national importance of maintaining the output of our high quality farmland cannot be understated.

Infrastructure is of critical importance in supporting economic recovery and growth, but flooding threatens roads, railways, utility supplies and telecommunications. Although flooding occurs in the low–lying areas these effects will be shared by those on higher ground. Effective water level management is crucial to us all, both in business and daily life.

Government states that it will no longer fund land drainage operations other than for the protection of homes and commercial property. They affirm that protection of agricultural land requires local solutions. This will involve participation of several organisations and need strong leadership from our local councils, particularly West Lancashire Borough Council.

Service of notice on five pumping stations will be followed with further cuts and marks the beginning of a two–year countdown to find a solution.

It's time to wake up and smell the coffee!

John Herbert, Scarisbrick

Disaster waiting to happen . . .

THE closure of the satellite pumps in the Alt–Crossens area is a disaster waiting to happen.

No–one has mentioned the effect on rural properties with septic tanks.

If the watercourses fill up there will be an inevitable back–up of lethal sewerage overflowing into gardens down driveways and into the streets.

In Holmeswood village most of the residents assume that they are on mains drainage but they are not. Everything flows into a massive septic tank off Holmeswood Road with liquid matter running into the ditches and solids taken away in tankers.

If this site overflows the Methodist Primary School would have to close when the toilets back–up as this would pose a serious health risk to vulnerable children.

Adrian Pendleton, Foundation Governor

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

'All I can do is sit and wait and wonder what I'm missing.' A canine visitor to last weekend's Green Fayre at Beacon Country Park in Upholland outside Fishers Mobile Farm. Picture by Martyn Snape. Code: 01082903.

No need to put up with dog nuisance!

I SYMPATHISE with those who suffer noise nuisance from dogs that bark all day while owners are out, having been through the same experience. My advice is not to put up with it.

First, put in a complaint to the environmental health department of your council. They can write to the dog owners issuing a warning and take further action if needed.

Some councils are pro–active in dealing with noise nuisance and issue on–the–spot fines for offenders. This was the standard method used by police in the region of the USA where I used to live, and it was effective. It was rare to hear continuous barking from dogs as no one wants a visit from the police with an instant fine.

If your council fails to resolve the situation in a timely fashion, you can bring a private prosecution against the guilty party. I used a firm of environmental health professionals. They were able to advise me on my legal rights and how to bring a prosecution, in that case not directly against the dog owners but against the council that was allowing the noise nuisance to persist on their property. The case never got to court as, on receiving the threat of legal action, the council acted quickly to move their troublesome tenants.

You have a right to peaceful enjoyment of your home and those who allow their dogs to annoy neighbours by persistent barking are breaking the law.

C. R., Skelmersdale

I like living in Skelmersdale and that's why I care about facilities

FURTHER to the condition of Skelmersdale's play areas, Mr Peter Etherington requested a response to his interpretation of my recent criticism.

I'm not sure why he felt the need for sarcasm about other locations, but I mentioned them because those are places where I have relatives, or in the case of nearer locations, visited to entertain our grandson during our child–minding days.

I live in Ashurst, Skelmersdale and have done for more than 38 years, by choice. I like Skelmersdale. In my opinion it is only a railway station and hospital short of being the best town in the country, which is why I care about what has happened to it.

When we moved here all the town's play areas were well–equipped, clean and maintained. I did not blame Rosie Cooper, I asked if she was proud of it.

The one person I referred to as being responsible is whoever the buck stops with in the department of the council responsible for cleaning and protecting these facilities.

With reference to Coronation Park, the play area in the one in Ormskirk was the main reason for my disgust (and the Rosie Cooper connection). That is where we feel we have to go to find a good enough local play area.

In so doing it is noticeable that the areas in Summer Street and Birch Green, which are the ones within walking distance of our respective locations, are, by comparison, indeed neglected, filthy and disgusting.

It would appear from your response that there is a divide within Skelmersdale which needs addressing.

David Symons,
Ashurst, Skelmersdale

Spare a thought for night workers

I WAS appalled by AG's thoughtless and offensive response to the problem of barking dogs left outside during the day (July 15).

He says to avoid hearing the racket one should get a job and go to work. Well, Mr AG, I was at work for 45 years and am now enjoying a well–earned retirement and would prefer my peace not to be shattered by yapping dogs – along with 10 million other pensioners.

I'm sure those unfortunate people who are disabled or ill and who are unable to work would say the same thing.

I have a son who is a paramedic who works nights and would like some peace and quiet during the day so that he can sleep, as does his wife, a hospital doctor who also works nights.

So, Mr AG, before writing such dismissive and unpleasant letters, try thinking of other people a bit more. And no, I don't wear pyjamas all day!

K. G., by email, details supplied

Quality of life is a right

RE: the letter headed 'You wouldn't hear dogs if you were at work' (Champion, July 15)'

It is rather presumptous to assume that the people who complained originally don't work, there could be a number of reasons why people are not in work during the day.

Everyone has the right to a peaceful quality of life regardless of whether they work or not.

C. A., by email, details supplied

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War horse talk at library

PAUL Paul Kenyon, chairman of Lathom Park Trust, will give a talk on the war horses trained at the park's remount depot during the First World War, at Tarleton library next Wednesday (August 5) starting at 10am.

The talk will explore how the horses were acquired by the army and how they were trained at Lathom before being sent to the front during the 1914–18 conflict.

Admission to the event at the library in Mark Square is free and no booking is required so anyone interested can just turn up on the day.

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

Nursery 'graduates' sign off in style!

THE Class of 2015 have graduated in style in Aughton!

But these 'graduates' were more than a little younger than usual – at just four years old!

Manager, Jane Waterson, nursery practitioner, Christina Thurston and staff at Portico Kindergarden based at Town Green Primary School held the special graduation–themed ceremony in the school hall to celebrate the class leaving the nursery for reception.

The children wore blue graduation–style robes to the ceremony to celebrate their final day last week.

Jane Waterson said: "Parents and carers were invited to watch the ceremony and each key worker did a little speech about each child. It was alovely service and quite a few workers and parents shed a tear. We do the 'graduations' every year but this one was one of most emotional so far."

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1141382

£9,000 lottery grant boost for charity

By **Danielle Thompson**

A CHARITY which helps adults in West Lancashire with learning disabilities to enjoy sporting activities has been given a grant of more than £9,000 from the Big Lottery Fund.

Sporting Challenge is made up of parents and carers who have been providing sporting activities for around 30 people with learning difficulties in West Lancashire for the last seven years.

The charity has received a grant of £9,180 for bowling, boccia and kurling, aerobics, fitness training, country walks, and 12 taster sessions activities including swimming, Wii games and dance.

The sessions will start in August.

Participation in sporting activities is known to improve mental and physical wellbeing, increase confidence and encourage independence.

Members of Sporting Challenge enjoying a day out kayaking

It can be difficult for people with learning difficulties to access sport and exercise activities. Barriers include parents or carers being unable to physically take them and stay with them at classes and they can also experience physical difficulties with participating in mainstream sport and exercise classes.

Sporting Challenge provides special workers who can collect participants from where they live and provide much–needed support while they are having fun, before dropping them off back home.

Edward McCarthy, Sporting Challenge trustee and secretary, said: "I am delighted with this funding award from the Big Lottery Fund. It is a wonderful opportunity for Sporting Challenge and we thank them very much on behalf of everyone."

Got an interesting story to tell?
Champ Newsdesk 01704 392400

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Man charged with causing death by dangerous driving

A MAN has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving following a collision in Scarisbrick earlier this year in which a Skelmersdale man died.

46–six–year–old Andrew Birch, a passenger in a Peugeot Horizon driven by his 80–year–old mother, suffered fatal injuries when it was in a head–on collision with a Toyota Carina on the A570 Southport Road at around 6pm on Tuesday, January 6.

Both drivers also suffered serious injuries.

Police believe a grey BMW was involved in a dangerous overtaking manoeuvre, causing the other two cars to collide.

Kenneth Grisedale, 56, of Hartwood Road, Southport, is due to appear at Ormskirk Magistrates Court on Tuesday, August 25.

Crash victim Andrew Birch

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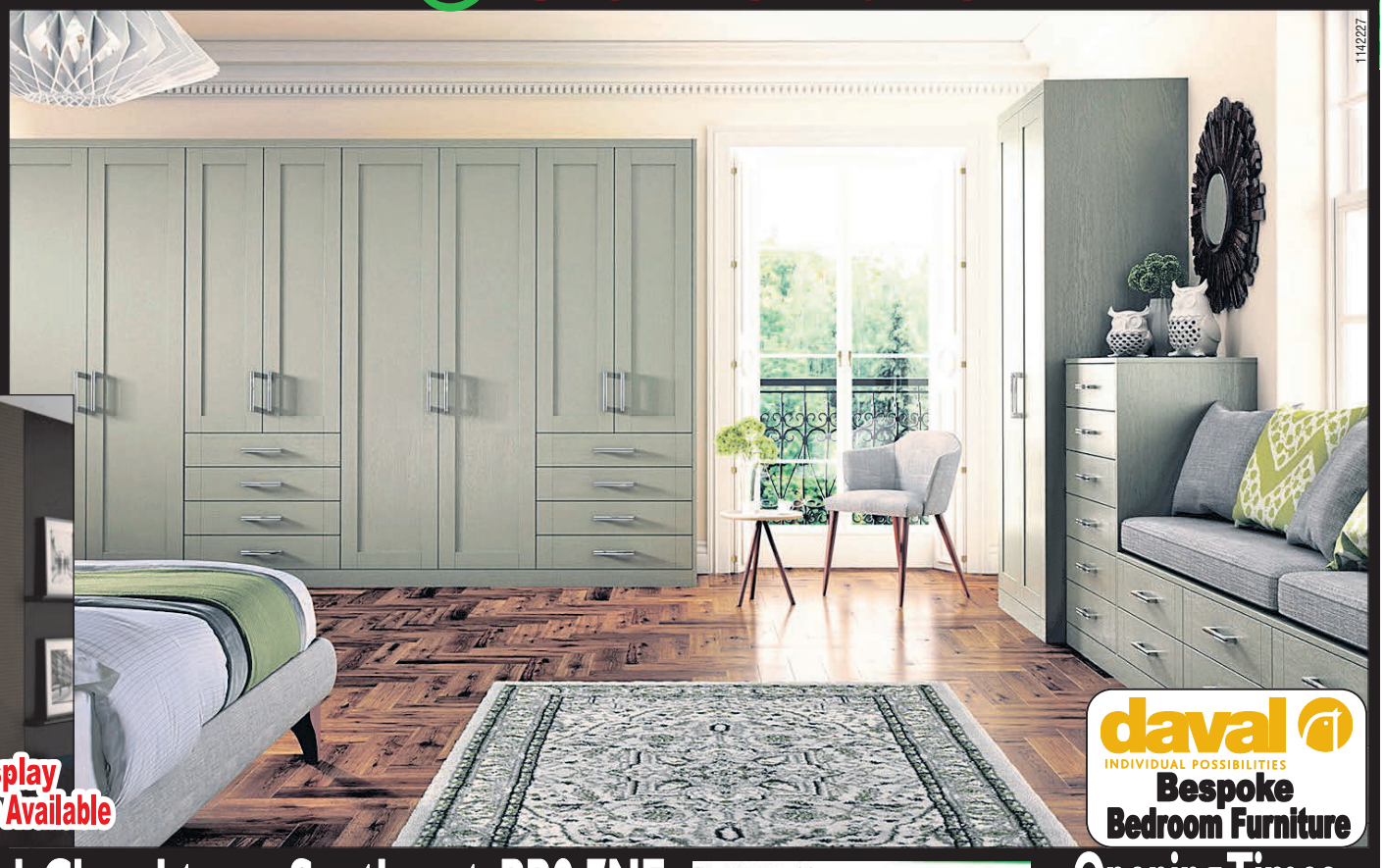

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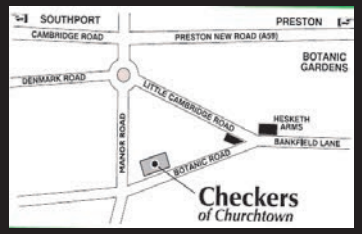

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Public invited to have a say on council policy to aid disabled tenants

Report by **Henry James**

MEMBERS of the public are being invited to give their views on a draft policy to guide how West Lancs Council provides adaptations for its disabled tenants.

The council has a statutory duty to help eligible disabled tenants or those with long–term illness who require an adaptation to their home to enable them to live independently. Adaptations to assist carers in their caring role may also be eligible for grant support.

The draft Landlord Services Disabled Adaptations Policy has been drawn up to help officers deliver the adaptations in a fair way to help as many people as possible and to inform applicants of the criteria the council will apply.

A public consultation has been started by the council so people can give their views on the policy. As well as tenants and the general West Lancashire public, the council will consult with a number of organisations, including the WL Physical Disability Partnership and Age UK.

Councillor Jennifer Patterson, the council's cabinet member for housing, said: "This is a very important document as a suitable, well–adapted home can be a key factor in enabling a disabled person to live well and independently.

"The purpose of this policy is to assist officers in delivering an adaptations programme and to ensure fair and consistent treatment for all tenants with disabilities or long–term illnesses who require such assistance. So please give us your views to help us shape a policy that is suitable for all concerned."

The draft policy aims to clarify a number of issues including maximum funding, how the adaptations affect right–to–buy applications and who is responsible for maintaining them.

To read a copy of the draft policy visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews and click on consultations underway.

To comment on the draft policy email gillian.sands@westlancs.gov.uk by the closing date of September 1.

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(behind Tesco) Aintree Lane
Monday 9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco)
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Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658 **TUESDAY**

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE (Morning Group)
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Tuesday 9.15 & 11.15am
Kathy: 01695 423 658

UP HOLLAND (Morning Group)
Up Holland Methodist
Church, Alma Hill,
Tuesday 9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

FAZAKERLEY
Our Lady of Sorrows Social Club
Stopgate Lane/Pirrie Road
Tuesday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sue: 07957 531346

MAGHULL
Royal British Legion
Red Lion Bridge
Liverpool Road South
Tuesday 5pm & 7pm
Sheila: 0151 521 3798

WEDNESDAY
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Burscough British Legion Club,
Lord Street
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Red Lion Bridge
Liverpool Road South
Wednesday 9.30am
Sheila: 0151 521 3798

FAZAKERLEY
British Legion
Longmoor Lane
next to Shell Garage
Wednesday 5pm & 6.30pm
Eileen: 0151 548 0658

LYDIATE (Morning Group)
St Gregorys Parish Centre
Liverpool Rd
Wednesday 4.30pm & 6pm
Marcia: 07976 897074

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

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Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
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Alma Hill,
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THURSDAY
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Aughton Village Hall
Winifred Lane,
Thursday 9.30am
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AUGHTON
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DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre
Birleywood
Thursday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

MAGHULL
St Georges Social Centre
Station Rd
Thursday 5pm & 7pm
Sue: 07957 531346

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LYDIATE (Morning Group)
St Gregorys Parish Centre
Liverpool Rd
Friday 9.30 & 11.30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
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St Anne's Parish Centre,
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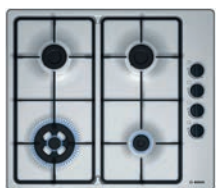
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BNI FEATURE

The workplace pension reform was introduced in October 2012, in response to difficulties arising from increased life expectancy and low pension savings. The Government initiative requires employers to automatically enrol eligible workers into a qualifying pension scheme, and is being introduced on a staged basis according to business size. From 2015, this was extended to smaller businesses.

With that is mind John Hughes of Heriot Hughes Chartered Accountants and Richard Hawkings of LJ Financial Planning (RH) Limited, formed a joint venture called Heriot Hughes Wealth Management Ltd who is appointed representative of LJ Financial Planning Ltd. John and Richard met through BNI, and between them have over 50 years of experience in financial matters. They can now provide a full tax planning and wealth management service for businesses and individuals, they constantly refer business to each other, based on the trust they have in each other's ability.

The purpose of this venture, is partly to assist clients dealing with the uplifted payroll complexity of auto enrolment and also the investment aspect associated with the latest legislation. It is also to provide a full financial service, centred around lifetime financial planning. We help clients to identify, achieve and maintain their desired lifestyle, without the fear of running out of money, whatever happens.

John and Richard have worked closely together over the years, and have the same client focused approach, to engage for the long term and not for short term gain. John Hughes said: "At the end of the day our prosperity is based on our clients prosperity" Richard added: "So the more we can help plan, to achieve their goals, the better.

"We are keen to engage with clients at an early stage, so that the whole process is managed effectively, and so that businesses and their employees are appropriately advised. It is anticipated that for those businesses that do not start to tackle this now, they could be left out in the cold with no provision, and worse significant fines imposed.

Between 2015 and 2017, over 1 million companies will be staging, which is a staggering 51,134 companies per month.

But is auto enrolment all bad for the employer?

Richard answers: "Well no, by working with Heriot Hughes Wealth Management, clients can benefit by offering a tailored package of benefits to their staff and team, which will ultimately aid staff retention and help save money.

We are going to be running a series of free seminars to outline the benefits and processes to be followed, please contact us on 0151 928 4629 for further information."

If you would like to join BNI please call Richard on 07971 287517 . 1142340

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See the BNI Classified advert in the Experts Section 1142368

I remember when we could be proud of British industry

A BIT of history for you.

A TV programme – 'Cold War, Fast Jets' – brought home to me just why I am a curmudgeonly old reactionary.

This programme described the rise and precipitate nosedive of the British aircraft industry after the Second World War.

It ended on the cancellation of the world–beating TSR2 – a plane which could outdo the legendary Vulcan 'V' bomber in its capability to deliver the nuclear deterrent, yet could out–fly then current fighter jets as well.

The programme told us that the plane (which was undergoing test flying at the time) was cancelled by Harold Wilson when Labour came to power in the mid–sixties.

What it didn't say was that just days before the General Election, Mr Wilson, giving a speech to English Electric workers in Preston (where the plane was built) assured them that if Labour won the election, the plane, and their jobs – would be safe.

It wasn't and they weren't.

And this money–saving action, rightly or wrongly, put the final nail in the coffin of the British aircraft industry, which since the end of WW2 had led the world (including the mighty USA) in the production of advanced jet engines and planes.

When I was at school in the late 1950s my friend Ashley Sollit was a plane 'nut' and proudly told me (and showed photos) of the then new English Electric P1B 'Lightning' jet fighter. Another Great British triumph.

And my class went on a day trip to the Avro factory near Manchester to watch the mighty Vulcan bombers coming off the production lines.

So yes, we were proud, quite justly, of being British and still fighting above our weight on the world stage.

It wasn't only our aircraft either. Our shipyards could – and did – still build great ships such as the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal and the forever memorable RMS QE2.

And my hobby at the time – buses. Not so impressive as Vulcans admittedly, but in the 1960s Leyland buses were famous in, and exported to, countries all over the world.

That was another industry wrecked by Government interference of course. British Leyland, a kind of shotgun marriage between the highly successful Leyland truck and bus–building business and ailing Austin–Morris cars, cut off investment in the really great commercial company to prop up the badly–run and managed car division.

The end result we all know. We hardly have a truly British car maker at all now, and the once apparently invincible Leyland buses and lorries are no more.

We can't even produce our own chocolate or run our own shops any longer.

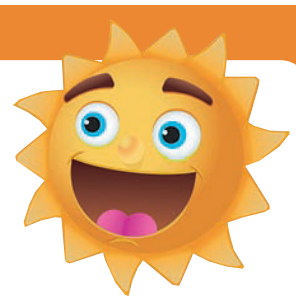
Even the groups which run our train and bus services are now foreign owned.

And to all those who say 'So what? It's a global economy and people like you are Little Englanders living in a world long gone', I can only say that yes, I suppose that is what I must be.

But I remember as a small boy when children's publications such as the Meccano magazine would tell us of the latest achievement of British industry (now modelled by Dinky or Hornby Dublo).

For me, I'm afraid, 'Fings just aren't wot they useter be'.

Chapel Gallery



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New Healthwatch team recruited to improve services

A NEW team has been recruited at Healthwatch Lancashire to develop their programme of Enter and View assessments across the county.

Michelle Chapman, Linda Brown, Julie Downs and Lynn Ireland have joined the Healthwatch Lancashire team to concentrate on delivering the programme of assessments which aim to improve health and social care services in the county.

The team will focus on Healthwatch Lancashire's responsibility to enter health and social care premises and gather people's views on the quality of care and observing the environment.

The aim for the Enter and View project is to work in collaboration with health and social care services to identify areas where they can improve, to raise any areas of concern and to ensure that people are receiving the best possible quality of care.

Sheralee Turner–Birchall, volunteers and project officer manager, said: "The overall aim of the Enter and View project is to provide support for services and to help them to identify how they can improve by listening to the experiences of those who are using them.

"The team has a vast amount of knowledge and skills which will ensure that this really benefits the people of Lancashire."

Healthwatch Lancashire is currently working with the Care Quality Commission, North West Ambulance Service and the Lancaster Health Hub to develop a credible approach for undertaking the assessments.

The Enter and View team will take part in the assessments along with volunteers who will receive the appropriate training before undertaking the role.

Patients urged to join trust's reader panel

PATIENTS are being urged to sign up to Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's reader panel to help the trust to improve its service in the future.

Those on the panel can give their insight and opinions to ensure that service user and carer information is of the highest quality when developing our patient information leaflets, booklets and other printed materials for the trust.

Dee Roach, director of nursing, quality and governance at the trust, said: "It's vital that the content we print is understandable, clear and concise so that important messages are not lost. Joining our reader panel provides an invaluable perspective and will ensure that the information we provide to service users, their carers and family regarding the services and care we provide will be the best it can be to help aid recovery.

"Whether you are a current service user, or you have been in the past, if you have clinical or editorial experience or you are simply interested in ensuring high quality care, your insight would be extremely valuable in offering advice on the information the trust is producing."

Dee Roach Code NA

For further information or to sign up, call 01772 695384 or email communications@lancashirecare.nhs.uk.

'Queen Elsa' with pupils at Tarleton Holy Trinity Primary School at their last–day party

'Royal' visitor drops in on pupils' end–of–year party

YOUNGSTERS at a West Lancs primary school got a pleasant surprise when an unexpected 'royal' guest dropped in on their end–of–year party.

A professional look–alike of Queen Elsa, lead character in the animated Disney box–office hit, 'Frozen' delighted pupils at Tarleton Holy Trinity CE Primary when she joined them for the get–together to mark the end of term.

Headteacher at the school in Church Road, Stephen Smith, said: "We have had some famous people visit our school in the past but it was special when Queen Elsa dropped in!

"After signing in, she visited some of our classes before going to the school hall where she joined in a sing–song with our Stepping Stones pre–school group. The children were delighted to sit with her and enjoy the experience during their end–of–year party."

Mayor opens Nostalgia Day

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy, performed the official opening of the Summer Day of Nostalgia event held at the Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church in Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Cllr. Hennessy and her consort Paul were greeted by organisers Reverend Melvin Kelly, Lilian Graham and Cynthia McClenaghan who showed them around the displays, including 15 vintage wedding dresses dating as far back as 1890, wartime memorabilia and vintage toys.

All proceeds from the event will go towards the refurbishment of the church.

Mayor Nikki Hennessy inspects one of the vintage wedding dresses with organisers of the event Code1082370

Musical boost

AN appeal to raise £500,000 for vital repairs to the roof of a historic Grade II listed in Ormskirk has been boosted to the tune of more than £1,000 – thanks to the effort of a local musical ensemble.

Members of the Maghull Wind Orchestra staged a fundraising concert in aid of the St Anne's RC Church Roof Appeal at the church in Prescot Road, realising a grand total of £1,188.

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150–plus attend first police apprentice recruitment event

MORE than 150 people attended the first apprentice recruitment event held by Lancashire Constabulary.

Staged in conjunction with North Lancs Training Group, it offered an opportunity to learn about the various new apprentice roles available at the constabulary headquarters and the office of the county's police and crime commissioner.

Young people aged between 16 and 23 were invited to listen to a range of speakers from the National Apprenticeship Service, North Lancs Training and existing apprentices on the benefits of joining the force, what the roles entail in which department and what is expected from interested recruits.

Constabulary recruitment manager, Louise Miller, who started as an apprentice with British Gas and before joining the force 21 years ago, said: "Lancashire Police is a fantastic place to work, whether you are full–time or a volunteer. Hopefully what the young people saw and heard at the event will inspire them to sign up."

And police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, commented: "This is a really great opportunity for two talented apprentices to come and work with my office. We have had apprentices join us previously and they are continuing to work successfully as part of the team.."

Louise Miller added: "You don't need to have attended to be able to apply. Simply visit North Lancs Training Group website www.ntlg.co.uk/apprenticeships or email recruitment@nltg.co.uk."

Fitness tips for families

HEALTH professionals have revealed top tips for families to keep fit this summer.

Lancashire Care NHS Trust's Fit Squad are encouraging families in the region to team fun with exercise, to keep the whole family entertained over the summer break.

The Fit Squad provide support for people who want to lose weight, become more active and improve their diet.

Their 'tips' include taking part in physical activity that doesn't feel like a work– out, such as a trip to the local park or bowling alley; swimming where children can have fun with their friends while getting vital exercise and cycling where the list and lengths of possible journeys is endless.

They also advise looking out for advertisements at local leisure centres where there is often lots going on, including play schemes and activity clubs.

Tracy Sutton from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "The summer is a great time to start getting active and make small changes to leading a healthier life.

"Going out for walks or playing sports with friends or family will bring you closer together and help you keep active at the same time."

For more information visit www.fitsquad.nhs.uk or call 01772 644158.

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Half–a–million lottery windfall for Twinkle House

By **Henry James**

The Twinkle House team celebrate the Big Lottery grant

OFFICIALS of a West Lancse–based charity which provides support for young people with disabilities are celebrating after landing a half–million pound lottery windfall

Twinkle House, which is based at Gorsey Place, East Gillibrands, Skelmersdale has received a Big Lottery Reaching Communities Grant of £499,863 – the highest in Lancashire in the July awards.

The three–year grant will fund the continuation of the charity's free one–to–one practical support service for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs in the North West and a new 'Positive Intervention and Prevention' (PIP) project.

The PIP project aims to support improvements in the mental health and well–being of children and young people up to the age of 19 and their carers.

It will deliver a range of activities to help prevent difficulties from arising or worsening and some family group sessions enabling families to come together and enjoy sensory experiences and relaxation.

Other activities will include sleep support for families and classes for children and young people where they can learn coping strategies using simple relaxation techniques to reduce stress and anxiety.

There will also be group sessions where people can learn dance and movements, and yoga and sensory hydrotherapy sessions will also be introduced for carers and families.

A full table of new sessions will be available soon as the project is expected to start in August, in time for the summer holidays. These sessions will be available all year round, apart from December.

Jill Boardman, chief executive of Twinkle House, said: "We are truly thankful to The Big Lottery for realising our worth and supporting our expansion by awarding Twinkle House a second Reaching Communities grant.

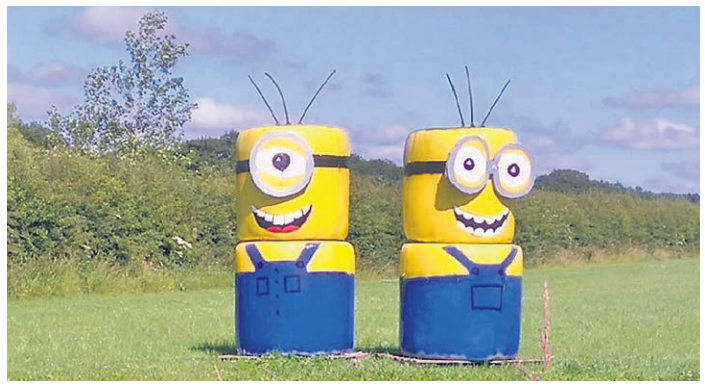
"It has been a very stressful year in our new premises with the uncertainty of being able to continue due to fierce competition for limited grants available for charities.

"We are so proud that we have raised a large proportion of our funding needs for the next three years and I would like to sincerely thank our team who have stood firmly by my side throughout this uncertain time and continued to deliver exceptional support despite the threat of closing.

"We firmly believe we have received this funding because we prove over and again that we can deliver quality support and improve outcomes that make a lasting difference for children and young people with disabilities.

"We are thrilled to be able to provide new services that families have told us they need. However, we will need to make a small charge for some of the sessions to support the running costs of the service that are not grant–funded as we still need to raise £120,000 over the next three years to pay for these.

"The grant will also enable Twinkle House to recruit new staff to support the PIP project and details of jobs will be available on our website soon."



Paul Kenyon took this photograph of 'minions' in a field between Bishap Green and Mawdesley last week Code NA

Minions land in West Lancs!

LOCAL history buff Paul Kenyon is used to some unusual sights but the one that greeted him while driving from Bispham Green to Mawdesley recently left him "delighted and amused"!

For there, in famer's field, stood two hay–bale Minions!

The yellow, cylindrical characters featured in the hugely popular computer–animated comedy films Despicable Me 1 and 2 which spawned a spin–off, Minions, released earlier this month.

Paul, chairman of the Lathom Park Trust historical society, said: "You might be forgiven for thinking aliens have landed if you happen to be driving along the road from Bispham Green to Mawdesley and see this pair in a farmer's field. They are very artistic!"

Care home safari park trip bridges generation gap

RESIDENTS at an Aughton care home were thrilled to be joined by young children for a trip to Knowsley Safari Park as part of an initiative to bring different age groups in the community together.

Twelve residents from Hillcroft Care Home in Long Lane were joined by senior carer Kirsty Adams and supervisor Marie Noone, who took along four of her children on the trip to the safari park and for afternoon tea at the Botanic Gardens in Southport.

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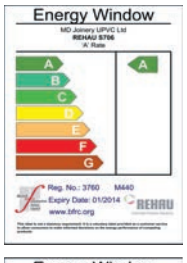

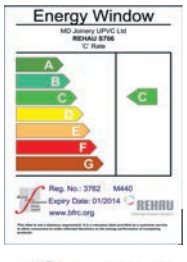

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County council wins digital skills award

LANCASHIRE County Council has won an award for helping people to learn digital skills.

The authority picked up the Digital Skills Charter award at the 'I Made A Difference' ceremony organised by charity, Go ON UK.

The awards celebrate both the people whose lives have been changed for the better by the Go ON North West campaign and those people, businesses and charities who have shared their skills with others.

Categories ranged from 'Personal Impact', for those who have benefited from learning basic digital skills, to 'North West Digital Leader', which appointed one digital champion as the face of Go ON North West.

The Digital Skills Charter award, sponsored by the Post Office, recognised how the county council fulfilled the Digital Skills Charter commitments – establishing Go ON Lancashire and supporting colleagues, communities and customers to gain digital skills and ensure digital services are usable by all.

County council leader, Jennifer Mein said: "There are 120,000 adults in Lancashire who have never been online and are missing out on vital services and opportunities. We are committed to helping these people.

Lynne Johnstone and Nick Kershaw from Lancashire County Council, pictured with Alan Taylor from The Post Office

"Through the Superfast Lancashire programme we are making sure that as many people as possible will have access to a fast internet connection and through Go ON Lancashire we are working with partners to ensure that people have the skills to benefit from that access."

Gallery hosts arts activities for kids

WEST Lancs Council's Chapel Gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk, will host a range of arts activities for chidlren during the summer holidays.

There are art sessions for 8 to 12–year–olds every Tuesday to Friday from 10.30am to 12.30pm during August. Activites include painting, sculpting, using mixed media and print, all facilitated by a professional artist.

The cost is £5 per session, £15 for a week or £50 for all sessions over the whole month, payable in advance.

For pre–school children there will be free creative play sessions every Wednesday afternoon in August, between 2 and 3.30pm.

The first session is on Wednesday, August 5 and children must be accompanied by an adult.

For further details ring the gallery 01695 571328, or email chapel.gallery @westlancs.gov.uk.

Meanwhile, the gallery's regular creative space will also be free to use for families on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons between 2 and 4pm.

Children of any age are welcome for these 'drop–in' sessions but must be accompanied by an adult.

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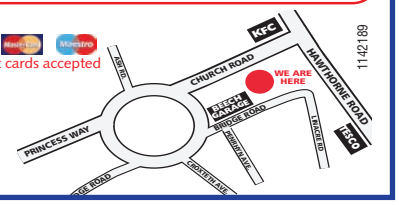

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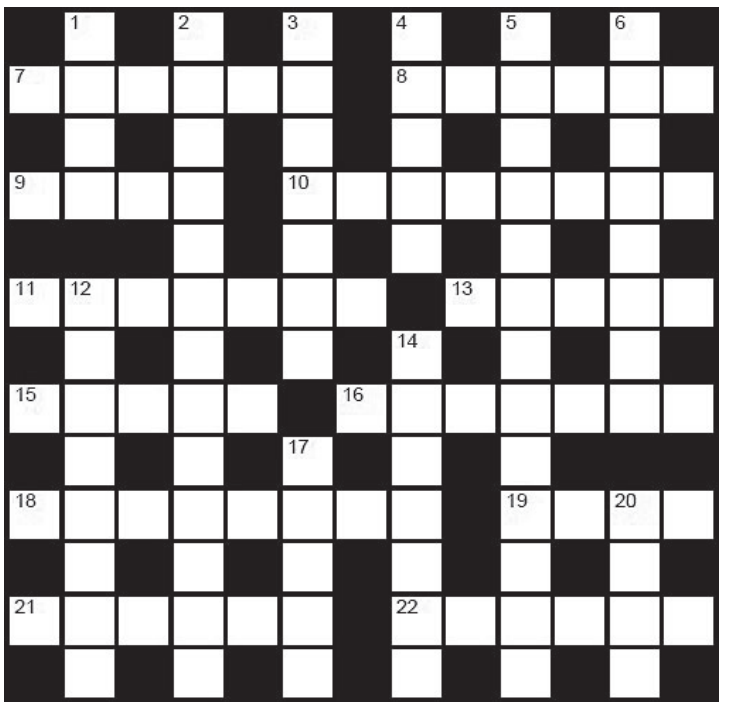

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
ACROSS: 7 Profit sharing. 8 Hymeneal. 9 Fair. 10 Justice. 12 Tenor. 14 Scamp. 16 Pink eye. 19 Smug. 20 Cakewalk. 22 Anglo American.
DOWN: 1 Army. 2 Affect. 3 Stretch. 4 Shell. 5 Trifle. 6 Antimony. 11 Upcoming. 13 Pickled. 15 Moguls. 17 Kuwait. 18 Eclat. 21 Lean.

ACROSS
7 Small restaurant (6)
8 Quantity (6)
9 Equipment for playing CDs or records (2-2)
10 Science of controlled breeding (8)
11 (Of a look or manner) Menacing (7)
13 Portion of a play (5)
15 Ward off, deflect (5)
16 Coming, advent (7)
18 Grouping of words or musical notes (8)
19 Broad smile (4)
21 The countries of East Asia collectively (6)
22 Long thin strip of pasta (6)

DOWN
1 Flightless bird native to New Zealand (4)
2 A blackleg (13)
3 Unopened flower (7)
4 Loose fitting (5)
5 Device that links two moving parts of a mechanism (10,3)
6 Large snake of tropical South America (8)
12 Repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses (8)
14 Aromatic Eurasian plant used as a culinary herb (7)
17 Catalogues (5)
20 Small island or peninsular (4)

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Grand gesture in memory of workmate

PHARMACY staff have raised more than £1,000 for charity in memory of a workmate who passed away last year.

The staff, who work at Halsall Pharmacy, Halsall Road and Ormskirk Pharmacy, Derby Street, raised £1,168 for the British Heart Foundation in memory of colleague, Steve Lawrence, who collapsed and died last May.

Ali Moody, manager of Halsall Pharmacy, said: "Steve was a popular figure in the local community, delivering prescriptions with a friendly smile and always willing to help everyone. The two communities rallied together and donated raffle prizes, with the star prize being a signed Steven Gerrard Liverpool FC shirt. Customers and staff at Halsall Pharmacy also baked and sold cakes to raise further funds."

Staff members Paul Middleton, Emma Edwards, Louise Naylor and Halsall Pharmacy manager Ali Moody presented the money to Dot Woods from the Briish Heart Foundation

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New arrivals expected to cause a splash at Mere!

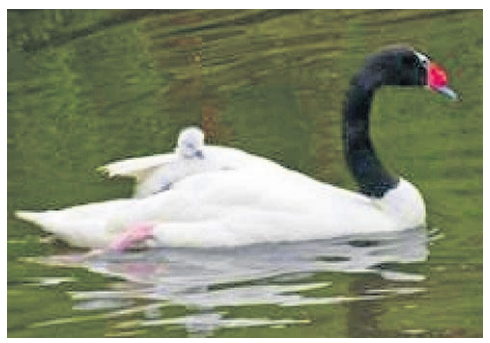
MARTIN Mere has welcomed four cute new arrivals to its wildfowl community which are expected to be popular with visitors to the Burscough nature reserve.

The newcomers are two black swan cygnets and two black–necked swan cygnets.

The black swan cygnets can be seen walking around on the grass in the centre's 'Weird or Wonderful' attraction area, while the black–necked swan cygnets can often be found riding around on the backs of their parents on the water, tucked under their wing.

Martin Mere grounds manager, Steve Nasir, said: "This pair of black swans only paired up in 2013 when Weird or Wonderful opened and they have been successful in rearing almost 10 cygnets since them. We are confident that they will continue to be good parents and raise them successfully.

"The black–necked cygnets are paler in colour and spend most of their time in the water or riding on their parents backs.



One of the black–necked cygnets 'hitches' a ride with a parent

"They make a great and very cute photograph opportunity. Both sets of cygnets are very different and visitors should look out for them over the summer holidays."

School's out for long–serving head

THE final bell has rung for the long–serving headmaster of a West Lancs school.

A special leaving ceremony was held in honour of Lawrence Smye–Rumsby (left) who has held the reins at Becconsall All Saints CE Primary School for 15 years.

In a 36–year teaching career Mr Smye–Rumsby, who officially retires at the end of August, also served as head Higher Walton CE Primary, near Preston, as deputy head at Parbold Douglas CE Primary for seven years and also taught in two schools in Skelmersdale where he lives.

He said: "During my time, I have seen many changes in education but still believe that purposeful enthusiasm is the key to unlocking learning within children."

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Free music festival coming this weekend

BICKERSTOCK 2015, Bickerstaffe's free music festival is coming this weekend, (August 1 and 2), on Bickerstaffe Parish Field starting at 12pm.

This two day festival has been showcasing a variety of music and supporting original, local talent for over 10 years and attracts a wide audience of all ages from the area.

Paul Draper, founder, said: "Bickerstock is going from strength to strength, thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers and bands and musicians who all play for free and without whom, the festival would not happen."

This year's bands line–up can be found on www.bickerstock.org. along with timings, directions, how to apply for a stall etc.

Mr Draper goes on to say: "We have two large marquees covering the stages, bar and cafe, so we are fully prepared for British Summer weather! And remember all donations received and all money raised from the sale of food and drink, is used for the next festival and also donated to local good causes and charities, so come along and suggest one!"

Bickerstock has always had a family feel to it and campers are welcome on the Bickerstaffe Parish Field by prebooking on–line.

The Junction Blue Grass Band from Wigan on The Local Stage at Bickerstock in 2014. Code1071695

Paul added: "If you would like to get involved with Bickerstock's warm and friendly Crew, we are always in need of help, so please get in touch via the website or Facebook page, Bickerstock – The Official Facebook Group!. It's always a fun experience and many lasting friendships have been made over the years. The festival only happens because of the commitment of everyone on a voluntary basis!"

editorial@champnews.com

England and Scotland to join together for night at Atkinson

THE Tweed Project, a new collaboration from some of the best award–winning young musicians out there on the UK folk music scene, is coming to the Atkinson on Friday, August 7 at 7.30pm.

The outfit combines the talents of English folk duo Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar, with Scottish trio Mischa MacPherson, Innes White and Ali Levack.

Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar released their debut album, The Queen's Lover in 2012, and won the BBC Young Folk Award in February 2013 and then the Horizon Award, for best newcomers, at the main event at the Royal Albert Hall a year later. Their latest album, The Call, was a featured album on Folk Radio UK.

Likewise, Mischa MacPherson, along with her trio, was the 2014 BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award winner. She also went on to pick up the Gaelic Singer of the Year Award at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards in December 2014. Mischa is a Gaelic native and clarsach player from Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides.

For this new project she is joined by Innes White, an accomplished guitarist, mandolin player, pianist and singer and Ali Levack who's been perfecting his piping skills since the age of nine.

Streaming of Cumberbatch's Hamlet among highlights of Picture House's new season

VOLUNTEERS at Parbold Picture House have announced details of their new season.

On Sunday, August 9 at 7pm they are to show Still Alice. It stars Julianne Moore, who received an Oscar for Best Actress this year, she also received a Bafta, a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild award. The film co–stars Alec Baldwin. It is a drama about a renowned woman academic diagnosed with early–onset Alzheimer's disease.

Foxcatcher is to be shown on Sunday, August 23 at 7pm. It is directed by Bennet Miller and stars Steve Carell, Channing Tatum, and Mark Ruffalo. The film is a US drama based on a true story about the relationship between Olympic wrestler, Mark Schultz and his wealthy sponsor John du Pont, that paints a haunting portrait of America, ambition, power and control.

Into the Woods is to be shown on Sunday, September 6 at 7pm. It is directed by Rob Marshall and stars Meryl Streep, James Corden, Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp, and Simon Russell Beale. This film is Stephen Sondheim's musical fantasy about a baker who is sent into a forest by a witch to retrieve a number of items that will lift a spell, and in the forest, he encounters various famous fairy tale characters.

There is a chance to see The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel on Sunday, September 20 at 7pm. The film is directed by John Madden, and stars Bill Nighy, Maggi Smith, Richard Gere, Judi Dench, and Dev Patel. It is the sequel to the run–away success about impoverished British seniors retiring to India and starting everything all over again.

On Sunday, October 4 at 7pm Testament of Youth is to be shown at 7pm. It is directed by James Kent and stars Kit Harington and Alicia Vikander. The film is based on the powerful best selling memoir of Vera Brittain – Divided by War. United by Love. 1914. The film is about a passionate journey from youthful hopes and dreams to the edge of despair and back again. This is a film of young love, the futility of war and about making sense of the darkest times.

Chance to see Broadway production Of Mice and Men at Parbold Code NA

Far from the Madding Crowd is being shown on Sunday, October 18 at 7pm. It is directed by John Schlesinger and stars Julie Christie, Terence Stamp, Peter Finch, and Alan Bates. This is the 1967 film of Thomas Hardy novel about a young woman who inherits a farm and it also looks at the three men in her life.

The National Theatre NT Live streaming of The Beaux Strategm can be seen on Thursday, September 3 at 7pm. This is George Farquhar's wild comedy of love and cash.

People can see Verdi's Aida from the Sydney Opera House on Tuesday, September 15 at 7pm. This is a spectacular opera about ancient Egypt.

There is to be a National Theatre NT Live presentation of Hamlet starring Benedict Cumberbatch on Thursday, October 15 at 7pm.

On Thursday, November 19 at 7pm there is to be a National Theatre NT Live presentation Of Mice and Men. This is a Broadway production of John Steinbeck's classic tale and stars James Franco and Chris O'Dowd.

There is also a NT Live presentation of As You Like It on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 7pm.

Call 01257 464533.

New Elvis show

A NEW show inspired by and featuring the music of Elvis Presley is coming to the Liverpool Empire from Monday, August 10 to Saturday, August 15.

Joining the previously announced Mica Paris as Sylvia will be Sian Reeves as Mayor Matilda Hyde and Shaun Williamson as Jim, with Ben Lewis as Chad.

Love Me Tender is written by Tony Award Winner Joe DiPietro.

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SUN LOUNGERS Four adjustable metal folding sunloungers black textiline fabric, plus six green stackable. plastic garden chairs £25.00 o.n.o. 01704873085

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THREE PIECE SUITE G. Plan, 6 months old, very good condition, cocoa beige, traditional, available August, moving abroad must sell £600 o.n.o. 07564267110

TUMBLE DRYER Hoover Infinity, unused due to sudden bereavement. Cost £350. £120 off good family dryer. Bargain sell for £230 07594604523

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HOUSE AND HOME

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WASHING MACHINE, FAGOR integrated, full working order, new kitchen ordered £35 01695423894

WOODEN FIRE SURROUND BEAUTIFUL wooden fire surround with mantle piece antique pine col.(as new)excellent condition £100 07821417560

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FLYMO Lawn Edger £20.00 o.n.o. 01515318633

FLYMO BLADE UNUSED Flymo Lawnmower 46 cm metal blade. Pioneer and Quicksilver. (181814845675)Boxed and unused. £15 01704 560270

HOZELOCK Gardening Sprayer 5 LitresSize £20.00 o.n.o. 01515318633

KETTER GARDEN STORE Ketter garden store – free. Has instructions to dismantle and assemble. £Free 01704228028

LARGE GAS BBQ with gas bottle. Hardly used £90 07817 299748

LAWN SEEDER Evergreen Maxi, manual, 18' width £6, Various garden ornaments £10–£15 0151 9242948

LAWNMOWER BLADE UNUSED 38 cm Dobbies / Tesco Metal blade for lawnmower. (181814975431)In original packet. £8 01704 560270

GARDENING

LAWNMOWER BLADE UNUSED 40 cm LAWNMOWER BLADE MB0017 FITS FLYMO PARTNER SOVEREIGN... (181814970119)Boxed and unused. £12 01704 560270

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PATIO TABLE Circular glass table with frosted insert glass 31 inches across, with metal frame. £18.00 07530562650

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SUNLOUNGERS Four metal folding adjustable sunloungers, black textiline fabric, plus six green stackable plastic garden chairs. £25 o.n.o. 01704873085

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

CALLAWAY GOLF CLUBS Callaway X2 Hot pro irons 5–pw in superb condition. Clubs have hardly been used Maghull £160 015152625502

GOLF CLUBS Wilson 1200 Driver, 3 Wood, 3&4 Hybrids, 5–SW Irons (7 clubs), Putter & Bag. £80 01695 576270

GOLF SHOES Black rubber–studded shoes size 9 £10 01704 577338

ROGER BLACK TREADMILL Roger Black Gold model motorised treadmill in excellent condition as very rarely used. Has all the features required £140 o.n.o. 01515262502

MISC

A HUNDRED CASED DVDS Popular titles. £100 cash 01704 535338

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BABYLISS FOR MEN easy cut rotary hair clipper for a guaranteed even hair cut Grades 1–6, with instruction booklet. Used once – surplus to requirements. £25 o.n.o. 07821417560

COMPUTOR POWER PACKS x6 and some cd dvd drives x9 plus some usb fittings and sound cards £20 the lot £20 07518929646

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ELIZABETH ARDEN 'RED DOOR' Eau De Toilette Spray – 100ml – unopened and sealed box. Unwanted gift. Retail cost £29.99. Will sell for £18 o.n.o. 07821417560

GENUINE UGG WELLIES size uk 4 / 4.5 blue 1st to see will buy £30 07518929646

LEATHER EFFECT 2SEATER BEDROOM / living room brown 2 seater couch only 4,6 wide slight cracks in cushion at side but not noticable still bargain at £30 £30 07518929646

PHILLIPS FACIAL SUN LAMP new shape used afew times googles instuctions etc cost £85 bargain £20.00 01515319425 or 07773242918

MISC

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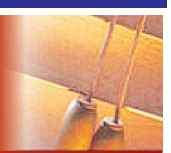

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Announcements

PRAYER

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. **P.B.D.**

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published. 45198

PRAYER

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Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published. **M.C**

PRAYER

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours.
This time I ask for one special favour.
(mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

B.D

PRAYER

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it a public building. **M.C**

Announcements

Births · Deaths · Marriages · Engagements · Congratulations · In Memorium · Anniversaries

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PRAYER

DEAR SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the past I have asked for many favours.
This time I ask for one special favour.
(mention it)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and your favour will be granted. Never to be failed.

A.M

BIRTHDAYS

Ben Thompson

Lots of love on your

18th

Dad & Pat,
Nan & Grandad,
Danielle & Jay, David &
Linda and Denise & Dave
XXX

45724

Danielle Thompson

Lots of love on your

21st

Dad & Pat,
Nan & Grandad,
Ben & Jay, David & Linda
and Denise & Dave
XXX

45723

LOOKS WHO's 21

2nd August

Laura Johnson

Happy Birthday Darling Love u loads

Mum, Dad
Mike, Ste
& Sadie
Enjoy Paris
xxxxx

45711

IN MEMORIAM

Graham (Nee Slater) Dorothy

1931 - 2010

Dear Dottie
I will love you always
Fondly remembered in
my heart.

David

45615

Walmsley Gail

1st August 2014

My very special friend Gail. It's been a year since you passed away and you're sadly missed every day. I'm just grateful for the friendship we shared for 23 years. We laughed, we sang, we had so much fun, life's not been the same since you've been gone.
Rest in peace
my bezzy mate.

Love always
Lin
XXXXX

45631

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CHECK-OUT YOUR LITTLE BLACK BOOK

my little black book

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PEALING Alan

27th July 2015.

Peacefully in Stocks Hall Nursing Home, Burscough, aged 91 years of Aughton.

Loving Husband of the late Alwyn, much loved Dad of Adrienne and Michael, dear Father-in-law of Francis and Jane & dearly loved Grandad of all his Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 12th August at 12.40pm. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired for the RAF Benevolent Fund. Donations & further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tele: 01695 424888

1142351

Stockley Ronald

Brenda and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends, neighbours and former colleagues for their kindness, sympathy, and donations received during their recent sad loss of Ron.

Special thanks to all members of staff at Beaconview Care Home for their care and attention, to the Rev. Christine Draper for her prayers and ministrations, to Jackie for the very special vegetable arrangement and to H Hardman & Co Funeral Directors for the caring and dignified funeral arrangements

1142282

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PORTER JOAN

Billy would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, letters and donations to the Salvation Army, following the sad loss of his beloved sister Joan. Special thanks to the staff at Leyland Rest Home who cared for Joan and to Major Chris Davidson, Major Joy Davidson and retired Major Bert Menary at The Salvation Army for conducting the Funeral Service.

Sincere gratitude to Wendy Maxwell and staff at Howard's Funeral Directors for their professional services.

1142374

DEATHS

CAMPBELL Jane (nee Fitzhenry)

17th July 2015

Peacefully passed away. Aged 92

Momma much loved. Funeral to be held at Anfield Crematorium at 11.20 on 10th August. No flowers please. Donations to Wirral Hospice St.Johns. Bebington

6113199

BARLOW LAURENCE 'LAURIE'

22nd July 2015

Aged 81 Years. Suddenly at home.

Dearly loved and loving husband of Anne. Laurie was a wonderful friend and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 30th July at 12 noon. Colourful clothing preferred. No flowers please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Children's Heart Unit Fund (C.H.U.F). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1142296

WOODS Thelma (nee Fitzhenry)

20th July 2015

Thelma, if sisters were flowers I would have picked you.

We will love and miss you always. Your sister Pat and Phil, nieces Vickie and Fiona, their husbands Dave and Andrew and the children, Fletcher and Madelyne.

6113510

DEATHS

WOODS Thelma May (nee Thoragood)

20th July 2015

Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family aged 77 years

Loving wife of the late Ted, devoted mum of Dave, Les & Paul, dear mother-in-law of Louise & Maria, cherished nan & great nan of all her grandchildren, dear sister of Audrey (Decd) Brian & Pat, sister-in-law of Rose & Phil.

Will be sadly missed by all her family & friends. Funeral service will take place at St. Paul's Church on Friday 31st July at 12.45pm followed by committal at St Helen's crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane tel: 01695 559868.

1142346

Woods Thelma May (nee Thoragood)

20th July 2015

MU, Thank you
for the years
we shared.

All the love you
gave and the way
you cared.

Our everlasting love
Paul, Maria,
Bradley & Sam

xxxx

1142347

DEATHS

Rushton Carolyn June

16th July 2015

Peacefully in Hospital surrounded by her family, aged 63 years.

A special and loving fiancée to Bill. A caring mum to Joanne, Adam and fiancée Kate, stepmother to Hayley, Lee and Chris. A loving sister to all her sisters and brother. Carolyn will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service will take place on Thursday 30th July 2015 at 10.30am at St Marks Church Scarisbrick. Flowers and Further Enquires to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk. Lancashire L39.2AU. Tel: 01695 577244

1142210

COURTLEY FRANK

July 15th 2015

Aged 89 Years.

Peacefully at home with his family by his side. Frank will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 3rd August at 12 noon. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1142286

DEATHS

Armitage John Leslie (Les)

19th July 2015

Aged 65 years of Southport

Devoted Husband of Kath, much loved Dad of Elizabeth, Lesley and John and the best Grandad in the world to Lucy, Jack, Lily & Martha. Funeral Mass at Holy Family Church Southport on Wednesday 29th July at 11.15am, followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only by request but donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. (Requested by the family that wearing blue would be quietly welcomed if so desired). Donations & further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Tel: 01704 891555.

1142260

Ockleshaw Robert (Bob)

17th July 2015

Suddenly in hospital aged 81 years

Husband of Brenda, devoted dad of Joyce and Nick, dear father in law of Joanne, cherished grandad of Graeme, Jenny, Stephanie, Rachel, Jessica, Liam and Matthew. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 6th August at 11.00am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Support. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Services, 29/31 Sandy Lane WN8 8LA. Tel: 01695 559868

1142357

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

Edwards Bunty

27th July

"Simply the best"

Our first birthday
without you mum
We never need a
special day to bring
you to our minds
For days without
a thought of you
are very hard to find.

Love and miss you
From all
your loving family

XXXXXX

45632

McDonough Brian (Hun)

29th July

Happy 77th Birthday

Wishing you were here
to celebrate your
special day.
We will raise a glass
and say cheers!

Lots of love
your loving wife Marm,
Michelle, Victoria,
son in laws,
grandchildren,
nieces & nephews
& friends

Forever in our
hearts

XXX

45642

Happy Birthday Danielle/Ben Thompson

30.7.94 & 7.8.97

Happy 21st & 18th
to a Special
Daughter & Son.
Have a great
21st & 18th
Lots of love
Mum & Ste xxxx
& Nan xxx

613539

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

LAWTON PATRICIA (PAT)

Tricia Leatherbarrow would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the many cards, flowers, mass offerings and generous donations received following the sad loss of her dear mum. Also to all who attended the funeral and the very Reverend Father Godric for a beautiful Requiem Mass and especially her daughter Rebecca for a fitting tribute. Thanks also to Reverend Father Boniface and Reverend Deacon Des Bill for their prayers and visits, thanks also to O'Briens Tea Rooms for an excellent funeral buffet and finally Lisa Hunter and MLS Funeral Directors for their efficient and compassionate guidance through a very difficult time.
God bless you all.

1142293

Killeen Beryl

Ronnie, Andrew, Sandra and family would like to thank all friends, family and neighbours for the many cards, messages of sympathy and donations to Claire House.

Special thanks to the carers and nurses for looking after Beryl and supporting the family.

Heartfelt thanks to Eleanor West and everyone involved in the service, for their kindness and support.

Grateful thanks to Margaret and the team at Skelmersdale Funeral Services for their empathy and respectful professionalism.

6113367

Woods Thelma May

20th July 2015

Night, night Thel,
Sleep tight,
until we meet again
Sue XX

Goodnight Nan,
We will love and miss
you always,
you'll be dancing again
with grandad. Until
we meet again,
lots of love David,
Andrew and Steph
XXX
and partners
Natalie, Beccie
and Mark

1142359

Case Donald (Don)

23rd July 2015

Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. Aged 80 years

Loving husband of Irene. Devoted dad of Stephen and Neil, dear father in law of Val and Jeanette, caring brother of Doreen and brother in law Ray, cherished grandad of Barry and great grandad of Jessica. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday 3rd August at 11.20am. Family flowers only please by request donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Services, 29/31 Sandy Lane WN8 8LA. Tel: 01695 559868

1142358

Robinson Ida Jean

17th July 2015

Aged 98 Years

She will be sadly missed by her cousin Ray and all her friends and carers at Thomas Henshaw Court, Southport.

Service at Thornton Garden of Rest on Thursday 30th July at 10:40 am. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 82 Station Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3HW. Telephone: 01704 577786.

1142230

Announcements

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
VARIOUS ROADS INCLUDING A570 AND A577, BURSCOUGH, BLAGUEGATE, ORMSKIRK, SKELMERSDALE AND WESTHEAD, WEST LANCASHIRE)
(REVOCATION, RESTRICTED ROAD, DE-RESTRICTION, 40MPH AND 50MPH SPEED LIMITS)NO2 ORDER 201*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above Traffic Regulation Order under **Sections 83 and 84 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984,** as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1.Revoke the whole of the "Lancashire County Council (Various Roads Including A570 And A577, Burscough, Blaguegate, Ormskirk, Skelmersdale And Westhead, West Lancashire) (Revocation, Restricted Road, De-Restriction, 40mph And 50mph Speed Limits) Order 2015".

2.Introduce restricted road status in the following lengths of road:

a)A577. Blaguegate Lane/Ormskirk Road, Blaguegate, from a point 70 metres south east of the centre line of Hollands Lane for a distance of 1070 metres in an easterly direction including the roundabout at the junction of B5312 Railway Road.

b)A577 Wigan Road, Westhead, from a point 124 metres south east of the centre line of Dicks Lane in a north westerly direction to a point 221 metres west of the centre line of Castle Lane.

c)A577 Wigan Road/Moor Street, Ormskirk, from a point 320 metres east of the centre line of Thompson Avenue in a generally westerly direction to the junction of Moor Street with St. Helens Road.

d)A570 Southport Road, Ormskirk, from a point 60 metres north of the centreline of County Road for a distance of 890 metres in a generally north westerly direction to a point 166 metres north west of the centreline of Heskin Lane.

e)A570 Southport Road, Scarisbrick, from a point 267 metres south east of the centreline of Bescar Brow Lane for a distance of 2340 metres in a generally north westerly direction to a point 112 metres north west of the centreline of New Hall Drive.

3.Introduce a 40mph speed limit in the following lengths of road:

a)A.577 Stannanought Road, Skelmersdale, along that length forming a loop south of the M58 Motorway, a distance along said length of road of approximately 827 metres, from a point 31 metres north of the centre line of the bridge carrying the M58 over the eastern carriageway of Stannanought Road to a point approximately 31 metres north of the centre line of the bridge carrying the M58 over the westerly carriageway of Stannanought Road.

b)B5312 Railway Road And Grimshaw Road, Skelmersdale, from a point 50 metres south of the centre of the roundabout at the junction of Railway Road, Ormskirk Road, Neverstitch Road and Witham Road in a south-easterly and easterly direction to a point 2.5 metres east of the centre line of footbridge No. 4014F1 (Delphside Footbridge) over Grimshaw Road.

c)A577 Neverstitch Road/Houghtons Road/Stannanought Road, Skelmersdale, commencing at a point 50 metres north of the centre point of the roundabout junction of Ormskirk Road/Neverstitch Road/Railway Road and thereafter proceeding in a generally northerly and then easterly direction to a point 70 metres north east of the centre point of the roundabout junction of Ashurst Road/Birch Green Road/Houghtons Road/Stannanought Road.

d)A577 Wigan Road/Dickets Lane/Blaguegate Lane, Blaguegate, from a point 70 metres south east of the centreline of Hollands Lane in a north westerly direction to a point 124 metres south east of the centreline of Dicks Lane.

e)A577 Cross Hall Brow, Ormskirk, commencing at a point 320 metres east of the centre line of Thompson Avenue to a point 221 metres west of the centre line of Castle Lane.

f)A570. Southport Road, Scarisbrick, from a point 485 metres south east of the centreline of Smithy Lane for a distance of 2034 metres in a generally north westerly direction to a point 267 metres south east of the centreline of Bescar Brow Lane.

g)A570. Southport Road, Scarisbrick, from a point 112 metres north west of the centreline of New Hall Drive for a distance of 1429 metres in a generally north westerly direction to the boundary between the County Borough of Southport and the rural district of West Lancashire.

4.Introduce a 50mph speed limit in the following lengths of road:

a)A570. Southport Road, Scarisbrick, from a point 166 metres north west from the centreline of Heskin Lane for a distance of 2233 metres to a point a point 485 metres south east of the centreline of Smithy Lane.

b)A59 Moss Lane and Liverpool Road North, Burscough, from a point 35 metres north east of the centreline of Back Moss Lane for a distance of 2330 metres in a north easterly direction.

5.Derestrict the A577 Stannanought Road, Skelmersdale, from a point approximately 31 metres north of the centre line of the bridge carrying the M58 in a north westerly direction to a point 70 metres north east of the centre point of the roundabout junction of Ashurst Road/Birch Green Road/Houghtons Road/Stannanought Road.

A copy of the draft Order and associated documents for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF and at the offices of The County Secretary & Solicitor, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to The County Secretary & Solicitor, Lancashire County Council, P O Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk **quoting ref:LSG4\5.54528\RH3** before the 26th August 2015

Ian Young, County Secretary & Solicitor
29th July 2015

1142350

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/0736/FUL Variation of condition no. 4 imposed on planning permission 2014/0348/FUL to widen the range of goods which can be sold from Unit 3 Hattersley Way, indicated as Unit 1F on Plan Ref: Proposed site plan 103/05 Rev A at 3 Hattersley Way, The Hattersley Centre, Ormskirk.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2015/0591/FUL Proposed extension to existing hotel to provide an additional 24 bedrooms and with associated alterations to car parking and landscaping at Premier Inn, Morris Dancers, 544 Southport Road, Scarisbrick.

This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

Application No: 2015/0672/WL3 Proposed extension to the front of the existing building adding a new lift for better access to top floor. The interior of the chapel will also be amended to better make use of the gallery and meeting spaces at The Chapel Gallery, St Helens Road, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2015/0733/FUL A phased residential development comprising 316 dwellings, linear park, formal and informal public open space, realignment of the existing water feature on site, provision of sustainable urban drainage pond, demolition of existing agricultural buildings, formation of two vehicular access from the A59 (High Lane) and associated landscaping and infrastructure at Grove Farm, High Lane, Ormskirk.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 29th July 2015
Assistant Director Planning PDNOT854

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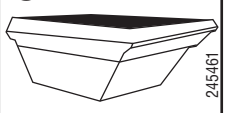
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Like Opal Fruits, does anyone miss the MGF?

The sporty motor wasn't perfect but its absence speaks volumes

Life On Cars
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The MGF was a hit in the 1990s with sports car fans. Code NA

OPAL FRUITS, Stephen Fry's tweets and Top of the Pops. It's funny how you only really start appreciating some things when they're gone.

In fact, I'd like to add the MGF to that list. This weekend marks the car's official 20th birthday celebrations – and the more I think about it, the more I realise its absence is a fairly significant bit of Britain's automotive armory missing.

Okay, so it wasn't perfect.

If I had a pound for every armchair critic who dismisses the 'F' for blown head gaskets I'd have enough to buy a replacement Rover K–Series engine, but much more serious were its poor showings in customer satisfaction surveys when it was new. Oh, and Anthea Turner was a proud owner.

Yet despite Anthea's best efforts Britain loved the 'F' – in fact, for a brief stint it actually outsold Mazda's MX–5 – so for more than a decade it acted as the nation's fun, inoffensive sports car of choice. Just like the MGB did a generation earlier.

Where is the modern equivalent? It's the middle of summer, there's a generation of company car drivers given allowances rather than mid–range Mondeos by their fleet managers – and what I suppose would be called the MGG is nowhere to be seen.

MG is alive and well, but it should be hunting on the territory it used to call its own as well as targeting the Hyundai–peddling masses.

I drove an MG3 last year and it was frugal and fun in an old–school, Citroen Saxo–ish sort of way. I suppose – and feel free to raise your eyebrows at this one – it does sort of live up to the legacy left by the old MG Metro. Fair enough, but what I reckon the world really craves is another proper MG, the sort you can pop the roof down and enjoy when the sun's shining, and hole up in the pub and discuss breakdowns when it isn't.

The MGF's old rivals – the Fiat Barchetta, the Toyota MR2, the Alfa Spider and so on – are all gone, leaving the MX–5 as just about the only option left if you want a small, fun, inoffensive sports car.

Now is the time for MG's Chinese masters to make it happen, but chances are they won't. Don't get bored with waiting – chuck a grand at a cheap MGF and remind the world what it's missing.

David is the news editor of Classic Car Weekly

Honda says the new Jazz is only slightly longer but a lot roomier than the old one. Code NA

Honda's supermini price is jazzed up!

PRICES for Honda's new supermini will start at £15,715, the Japanese manufacturer has confirmed.

The third generation of the Jazz, which arrives here in September, is available with just one engine so far – a 1.3–litre petrol engine – and a choice of different trim levels. The range tops out with the automatic gearbox–equipped EX version, which costs £16,815.

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MotorFest returns to West Lancashire

THE organisers of the Ormskirk MotorFest are to bring back Aintree's motor racing circuit – in Scalextric form, that is!

Event organiser Aintree Circuit Club will build a scale version of the place where Sir Stirling Moss won his first British Grand Prix.

It'll be in the Masonic Hall on the corner of Aughton Street and Park Road between 11am and 5pm on August 30.

Classic cars and bikes are on display in the town centre and Coronation Park from 11am ahead of a parade at 2.30pm.

Warning over rise in drivers taking photos behind the wheel

NEW research by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) reveals the shocking extent to which drivers use their phones and tablets to take selfies, make video calls and watch videos while driving.

The findings come from research commissioned this month exclusively by the IAM, which asked 500 drivers how they use their smartphones and tablets in the car.

Results show that nine per cent of drivers admitted to taking a selfie while driving 'in the last month'. This increases to 15 per cent of young drivers aged 18–24 and 19 per cent of 25–35 year olds. Women are less selfie obsessed than men, with just five per cent of women citing they have taken a selfie while driving compared to 12 per cent of men.

Eight per cent of drivers admitted to driving while using a video–calling application such as FaceTime and Skype to make and receive video calls, rising to 16 per cent among 18 to 24 year olds.

An IAM study in 2012 showed that using a smartphone while driving is more dangerous than driving at the legal alcohol limit or when using cannabis. Drivers have much slower reaction times, difficulty staying in the same lane and are less able to adapt to even slowly changing circumstances.

IAM's chief executive officer, Sarah Sillars said: "Everyone knows how dangerous using a smartphone or tablet is while driving. That's why it's shocking to see new trends like taking selfies and making video calls becoming common practice."

editorial@champnews.com

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2014 (14 Reg)	PEUGEOT 107 ACTIVE, in black with A/C, e/pack, ABS, CD etc, only 14,000 miles	£5,995
2012 (62 Reg)	TOYOTA AURIS COLOUR COLLECTION 5DR, in white, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 14,000 miles	£8,995
2013 (13 Reg)	VAUXHALL NEW CORSA 1.2 SXi, in white with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 20,000 miles	£6,995
2012 (12 Reg)	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA DIESEL, in nightshade with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD, CC, Bluetooth etc, only 10,000 miles	£11,995
2012 (12 Reg)	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 ES 5DR, in gun metal, with A/C, e/pack, Bluetooth, CC, alloys, CD etc, only 18,000 miles	£10,995
2012 (12 Reg)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 DESIGN 7 SEATER, in moondust silver, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 12,000 miles	£9,495
2012 (12 Reg)	NISSAN NOTE NTEC PLUS AUTOMATIC, in white, with A/C, sat nav, Bluetooth, alloys, CD etc, only six thousand miles	£8,995
2012 (12 Reg)	CITROEN C3 PICASSO VTR PLUS DIESEL, in silver with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 10,000 miles, road tax only £30	£8,995
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2012 (61 Reg)	PEUGEOT 3008 ACTIVE 2 DIESEL SUV, in silver, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 12,000 miles	£10,995
2012 (61 Reg)	MINI ONE, in burnt orange, with pepper pack, A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 16,000 miles	£9,995
2011 (11 Reg)	PEUGEOT 207 S 5DR 1.4, in steel grey, with A/C, e/pack, ABS, CD etc, only 24,000 miles	£5,495
2009 (59 Reg)	TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 TR 5DR, in silver, with A/C, e/pack, ABS CD etc, only 32,000 miles	£5,495
2009 (59 Reg)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1200 SXI, in silver lightning, with PAS, e/pack, alloys, CD etc only 41,000 miles	£4,995
2009 (09 Reg)	FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC, in tango red, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 42,000 miles	£5,995
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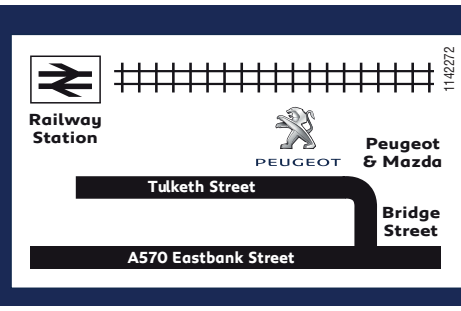

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12 VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTI SE AWD 5DR, black, 60,000 miles, massive spec, SAT NAV, leather, 19" alloys, Xenons, 1 owner, FSH **£11,200**

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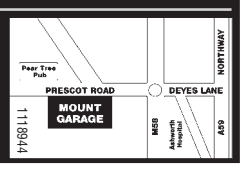

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Burscough batsmen undone by Depieza

BURSCOUGH remain on top of the Second Division, despite their second defeat in two weeks, this time by two wickets at Parkfield Liscard.

The visitors elected to bat and thanks to Lee Berrie (60) and Brendan Domigan (22) put 149 up on the board, with Sadrey Depieza taking the bowling honours with 6–50.

In reply almost everyone weighed in with 20s and 30s for the hosts who reached 153–8 to clinch victory, with Navdeep Aujla taking 3–47.

Burscough remain 58 points clear of Aldy.

Skelmersdale were beaten by 23 runs at home to Sutton (St Helens). Muhammed Baig claimed three three top order wickets for 62 while Matthew Fenney took 5–39 to restrict the visitors to 183 all out. Opener Joe Till scored 31 in Skelmersdale while Muhammed Baig top scored with 46 but the middle and late order fell away

Maghull remain second in the First Division after going down by 10 wickets at Colwyn Bay.

Joel Brockley took his seasons run tally to 724 with 37 more and skipper Greg Gillespie hit 34 as they were dismissed for 119, with Samad Fallah taking 5–53 and Phil Jenkins 4–17. In reply, Sion Morris (76*) and Zac Gidlow (31*) raced to 120–0 in 14.2 overs.

This weekend's local LDCC Division One and Two fixtures: Rainford v Fleetwood Hesketh, Burscough v Alder, Spring View v Hightown St Mary's, Wavertree v Skelmersdale.

Spin duo do damage again for Ormskirk

ORMSKIRK cruised to an eight wicket home victory over Southport & Birkdale on Saturday to keep in touch with the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division leaders.

Only Josh Bohannon (54) and skipper Chris Firth (19) offered much with the bat for S&B as they were dismissed for 119, with spin duo Simon Kerrigan 4–30 and Dane Currency 3–30 again doing the business with the ball.

In reply, former skipper Ian Robinson (64*) and wicketkeeper Gary Knight (33*) were both unbeaten as Ormskirk raced to 123–2. The result leaves Ormskirk are five points behind leaders New Brighton.

S&B are second from bottom in the table, one point below Highfield and 11 points in front of bottom team Wallasey who they play at the weekend.

Northern moved up to third place with a three wicket win at Wallasey. The hosts were dismissed for 120, thanks to 5–22 from Ryan Maddock, with Jack Leckey top scoring with 32.

In reply, Northern recovered for 41–7 to 125–7, thanks to an unbeaten 84 run winning partnership from Justin Snow (65*) and Stephen Cole (21*). Fifth placed Formby won a tight contest at Highfield by three runs, as England Under 19s batsman Haseeb Hameed hit 75 and Jack Vale 28 in Formby's 155 total, with Tom Ashton taking 3–20.

In reply the hosts slipped from 82–1 to 152 all out, thanks to the experienced Gary Keedy 5–41 and Alex Lines 4–54.

The result leaves Formby in fifth place in the table.

This weekend's local LDCC Premier Division fixtures: Birkenhead Park v Ormskirk, Formby v Bootle, Northern v Highfield, Southport & Birkdale v Wallasey.

Bumper crowd expected at Victoria Park as Linnets host Manchester United Under 21s

A BUMPER crowd is expected at Burscough FC when they host Manchester United Under 21s on Friday at Victoria Park, kick off 7.30pm. Linnets manager Mark Beesley said: "The Manchester United game is a great opportunity for the players to test themselves against players with Premier League experience. To play against one of the biggest clubs in the world, with a big crowd expected it will be a night to remember for Burscough FC." Burscough round off their pre–season matches at Skelmersdale United on Tuesday, August 4 and at home to Marine on Saturday, August 8.

Skem draw with FA Vase finalists

SKELMERSDALE United drew 1–1 with FA Vase finalists Glossop North End on Saturday, Phil Mooney giving Skem the lead in the 47th minute before Sam Hare levelled for the Derbyshire side.

Both teams attacked for the whole 90 minutes and but for quality performances by Skelmersdale goalkeeper Martin Fearon and his counterpart from Glossop the teams could easily have shared about eight goals rather than the two they eventually did.

The Glossop game followed one at Prescot Cables that was won 2–0.

Skem have two home friendlies this week, against AFC Fylde on Saturday, and at home to Burscough travel on Tuesday, 7.45pm kick off.

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